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GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO CONTROL FLOODS

ALERTS FLOOD PREVENTION GROUPS -- Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 9 Aug 50

Peiping, 6 August (Hsin-hua) -- A directive concerning the serious nationwide task of flood prevention, has been issued over the signatures of Tung Pi-wu, head of the Central government's Flood Prevention Command Headquarters, and of Fu Tso-i, Minister of Water Conservancy. All subordinate government agencies responsible for flood prevention work are directed to recognize the seriousness of the flood dangers now facing the country and to rouse themselves to action. They are ordered to strengthen existing works designed to afford protection against floods, and to take all feasible steps to prevent the development of situations that might result in disastrous conditions.

An example of how the national directive is put into effect is the order issued by General Lin Piao, chairman of the Military and Administrative Council of the Central and South China region, on 31 July 1950. This order commands all subordinate government agencies assent to a public covenant regarding the protection of the dikes along the Yangtze River. The covenant requires that everyone be conscious of the threat of floods and give whole-hearted cooperation in flood-prevention work. The text of the covenant mentions a score or more specific things which should and should not be done. This covenant applies to the tributaries of the Yangtze River as well as to the main river itself.

RAINS DAMAGE PAO-SHAN SEA WALL -- Wu-hsi Su-nan Jih-pao, 17 Jul 50

Soochow -- After 3 successive days of heavy rains, cracks appeared in the sea wall in Pao-shan Hsien which was repaired this past spring. It is said that this was because the new work was fresh and had not hardened, and because quantities of rock had been piled on the wall and that this had damaged the surface. Upon investigation, however, the principal cause appeared to be the fact that the straw matting spread on the surface was both insufficient and carelessly placed, with the result that erosion on exposed places caused many large crevices to develop. These have now been repaired and adequately covered with matting. Considerable damage was similarly caused to dikes in the vicinity of Ch'ang-chou.

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TUNG-T'ING HU STORAGE CAPACITY INCREASED -- Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao', 29 Jul 50

Chang-sha, 28 July (Hsin-hua) -- The excavation of the Ta-t'ung, in Hunan, has been successfully completed ahead of the arrival of summer floods. This flood-water storage basin is capable of holding 2,200,000,000 cubic meters of water, four times its previous capacity, and is equivalent to increasing the area of Tung-t'ing Hu by one third. [Apparently Ta-t'ung Hu refers to a portion of Tung-t'ing Hu, southeast of An-ch'ing Hsien and adjacent to Yuan-chiang Hsien, which had silted up in past years and now has been excavated.] This added storage capacity will reduce the danger of flooding of other areas around the perimeter of Tung-t'ing Hu.

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